(e) if so, the expenditure incurred on this work during the last three years, year-wise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) Question does not arise.

(d) No, Sir.

(e) Question does not arise.

Non-Implementation of Marine Regulations Act

2736. SHRI SOLIPETA RAMACHANDRA REDDY: Will the Minister of AGRICULTRE be pleased to state:

(a) whether non-implementation of Marine Regulation Act had been causing severe loss to fishermen in certain States like Andhra Pradesh; and

(b) if so, the action proposed in the matter to contain nation-wide stir by the fishermen?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Fall in farmgate seed prices

2737. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that oil seeds growers are facing the falling farmgate prices;

(b) if so, the action taken to support the oil seed prices; and

(c) the measures proposed by the Ministry to face the challenges and equip itself with global competitiveness?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) Yes Sir, generally there is a declining trend in respect of prices of certain oilseeds.

(b) In order to protect the interest of the oilseed grower, a two fold approach has been adopted. Firstly the import duties have been revised upwards in respect of edible oils. Secondly in order to arrest declining prices and to stabilize them, National Agricultural Cooperative Marketing Federation (NAFED) has undertaken large scale procurement of certain oilseeds. For instance during 2000-2001 season NAFED as on 31.07.2001 has procured 427 tonnes of Groundnut pods, 3.3 lakh tonnes of Mustard seeds, 3028 tonnes of safflower and 2.3 lakh tonnes of copra respectively.

(c) The tariffs levels have been bound for primary agricultural products, processed agricultural products and edible oils with few exception, at 100%, 150% and 300% respectively. There is thus considerable flexibility with the Government to protect the interest of oilseeds cultivators. Besides, in order to increase competitiveness steps have been taken to reduce cost of production and increase yields of oilseeds and towards this end oilseed production programme on mission mode approach under Technology Mission on Oilseeds and Pulses is being implemented.

Development of horticulture in Andhra Pradesh

2738. DR. DASARI NARAYANA RAO: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken so far or proposed to be taken for development of horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh;

(b) the Central funds released to the State for the purpose during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) the progress achieved by the sector during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (d) The Government implemented various Schemes with Central assistance for the development of horticulture sector in Andhra Pradesh. The Scheme-wise details of funds released to the State Government for the purpose during the last three years is given in the statement (*see* below).

(c) the State Government achieved the following progress in the horticulture sector during the said period of three years:

1396 ha were covered under area expansion of fruit crops.